AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 and replace it with the following paragraph:

The embodiment of the present invention shall be explained below in details. The water-based ink composition of the present invention is characterized by containing 0.01 to 1.0 % by weight of the water soluble high molecular saccharides (trade name: ~~Daiyutan gum~~ Diutan gum) represented by Formula 1 (wherein M represents alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal selected from sodium, potassium and 1/2 calcium, and n is 10^2 to 10^{10}) in the ink composition and having a molecular weight of 10^5 to 10^{13}. A water-based ink using the high molecular saccharides represented by Formula 1 described above used in the present invention has a so-called viscosity-reduced shearing property, and the suited viscosity which is preferred for a writing instrument is provided. That is, if it is blended with a ballpoint pen ink, the ink viscosity is high when the pen body stays in a still standing state, and therefore the ink does not flow out from the pen tip. In writing, however, a shearing stress is applied to the ink by rotation of the ball, whereby the ink viscosity is reduced, and the ink suitably flows out from the pen tip.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 and replace it with the following paragraph:

In order to suitably apply it to an ink for a writing instrument, the above high molecular saccharides is used in a range of preferably 0.01 to 1.0 % by weight, more preferably 0.05 to 0.5 % by weight based on the ink composition. If a use amount of the above high molecular saccharides is less than 0.01 % by weight, a so-called flowing phenomenon of the ink that the ink leaks out when the pen tip is turned downward is

observed. On the other hand, if the use amount exceeds 1.0 % by weight, the ink flows out insufficiently from the pen tip. Those which are commercially available by trade names such as, for example, ~~Kelcocreet~~ KELCO-CRETE® 200 (manufactured by Sansho Co., Ltd.) can be given as the specific examples of the above high molecular saccharides which can be used in the present invention.

At page 9, please delete Table 1 and replace it with the following table:

Table 1

		Example			
Blend components	Remarks)	1	2	3	4
~~Daiyutan~~ Diutan gum	1	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50
Xanthane gum	2				
Welan gum	3				
Succinoglycan	4				
Coloring agent A	5	5.00			
Coloring agent B	6		8.00		7.00
Coloring agent C	7			7.00	
Propylene glycol		15.0		20.0	10.0
Glycerin		5.00	15.0		
Surfactant	8	0.50	0.40	0.80	1.20
Aminomethylpropanol		0.60			
Triethanolamine			1.40	1.50	1.70
Benzotriazole		0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
1,2-Benzisothiazoline		0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Joncryl J62	9	0.80		0.50	
Joncryl 7001	10		0.40		
Water (refined water)		72.4	74.0	69.30	79.1

At page 10, please delete Table 2 and replace it with the following table:

Table 2

		Comparative Example						
Blend components	Remarks)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
~~Daiyutan~~ Diutan gum	1	0.005	1.10					
Xanthane gum	2			0.20	0.40			
Welan gum	3						0.80	
Succinoglycan	4					0.40		0.50
Coloring agent A	5	5.00		5.00			5.00	
Coloring agent B	6		7.00		7.00			7.00
Coloring agent C	7			7.00		5.00		
Propylene glycol				10.0			15.0	20.0
Glycerin		15.0	20.0		15.0	20.0		
Surfactant	8	0.80	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.30	0.30
Aminomethylpropanol			0.50	0.50			0.60	
Triethanolamine		1.20			1.20	1.30		1.30
Benzotriazole		0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
1,2-Benzisothiazoline		0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Joncryl J62	9	0.80		1.00			0.80	
Joncryl 7001	10		0.40			0.50		
Water (refined water)		76.70	70.60	82.50	75.60	69.10	77.00	70.40

At page 11, please delete the 1st paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

Remarks) in Table 1 and Table 2 show the following trade names and maker names:

Remark 1): ~~Kelcocreet~~ KELCO-CRETE® 200 (manufactured by Sansho Co., Ltd.)